

*6 April 2006*  
*Thursday*

## **READINGS**

Psalm 133; Exodus 7:25-8:19; II Corinthians 3:7-18; Mark 10:17-31

## **DEVOTION**

As we read the story of the rich young man it is easy for many of us to say that he was caught up in the law instead of the Spirit. He believed that by obeying the law he was doing what was right and that was all that is needed. We know from this story that Jesus challenged the young man to go beyond the legal requirements of the law and follow Jesus Christ with his whole heart. The young man was caught up in what he did for God instead of God.

The temptation that we might face today is similar to the rich young man. That is to put greater emphasis on the things we do for God instead of God. When we start thinking that going to worship, reading the Bible, Bible Study, devotional time, prayer, etc., will make us “Good Christians”, then we have fallen into the trap the rich young man did. None of these disciplines are bad, but when we do them to get them out of the way or out of duty we are missing the importance and reason we do them.

When we practice our spiritual disciplines it is important we always keep focus upon Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12: 2 says, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith... We have spiritual disciplines so that we may grow in our relationship with him, not so we can check the block for the day. Lent is a time of reflection upon all that Jesus did for us so that we may have a relationship with him, so let us keep our focus and eyes on Jesus this season.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for all you have done and provided for us. We thank you for the chance to have a relationship with you because of the sacrifice of your Son Jesus Christ. We pray that we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and that you give us the strength to overcome the temptation to make devotion to you a routine instead of a loving desire.

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